About Crop Weather

As each new crop season begins, reliable information is needed at the county level to monitor crop and livestock conditions. The need for this information is especially critical in light of the challenges facing our farmers. In times of floods or droughts, this data can be used to help secure disaster assistance for farmers.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) employees, Cooperative Extension personnel, farmers, crop advisors and others involved in agriculture provide data for the weekly Crop Weather Report. If you would like to become a weekly reporter please call or email us and we would be glad to help get you started.

The Weekly Crop Weather Report typically begins the first week of April and ends the last week of November.

Weekly crop weather data may be submitted by fax or through the internet. The National Agricultural Statistics Service has an internet site to collect reports. This website is accessible at the URL address **http://cpcsweb.nass.usda.gov/.** Plans are to have the survey available on the internet every Thursday by 8:00 AM. To account for any changes that may occur over the weekend due to the weather, we would prefer that the report be completed no later than 10:00 AM Monday. However, if reports are submitted early, please project all conditions and progress forward to Sunday based on the expected weather conditions. Reporters will be notified via email on Tuesday confirming receipt of their report, with our thanks.

Completing The Survey

When completing the survey:

The survey is designed for entering percents in supplies, conditions and progress.

SUPPLIES and CONDITIONS - the percent must add to 100%.

- This does not mean always enter 100%.
- For example on Corn condition:
  - 10 percent may be excellent
  - 70 percent good
  - 20 percent in fair condition.

PROGRESS - the percentage in each stage should normally increase each week.

- For example, if corn planted progress is 20% complete as of May 4th.
- Next week corn planted progress should not be less than 20%.

If progress was over-estimated the previous week and the progress declined, note the corrections in comments. Keeping a copy of the previous week's survey is a useful tool to assist in completing the current week's survey.

CROP PROGRESS STAGES are not supposed to add to 100 percent.

- For example, corn planted may be:
- 50 percent planted
- 5 percent emerged

In this example, 50 percent of the expected acreage for corn has been planted and of the acreage planted *and to be* planted, 5 percent has emerged. Each stage will eventually reach 100 percent.

SURVEYS are to be completed for the week ending Sunday.

Access The Crop Weather Internet Website

Logging in and using the Crop Weather Internet website is simple. Just follow the easy step-by-step instructions below:

- Access the internet
- Open browser window
  - Key: http://cpcsweb.nass.usda.gov/
  - Save as a bookmark for future use
- The following four boxes should appear:
  - State – key or arrow to IN
  - User – key your user ID
  - Password – key your password
  - Survey – select **Crop Weather**
- User ID and password are "case sensitive"
  - Caps & small letters are **important!**
- The next screen will then pop up:
  - Choose the SURVEY button
- If this screen does not appear:
  - Call 1-800-363-0469 & speak with the Crop Weather Statistician.
- The following screen will be the survey:
  - Fill in the applicable boxes
  - Leave boxes blank that do not apply to individual counties.
  - **Please~**Enter some comments in the comment section because they are an important part of our reporting.
  - Include your name with any comments
- Click SUBMIT
- If errors appear (i.e. percent not totaling 100)
  - Go back and make the necessary corrections
- After corrections are made:
  - Select SUBMIT again

Crop Weather Terms and Definitions

Days Suitable for Fieldwork:

In reporting for this item, reporters should take into consideration the activities appropriate for the time of year and which are currently underway. During planting season a day may be rated "not suitable" if soils are either too wet or too dry, or bad weather kept equipment out of fields regardless of soil condition.

Soil Moisture:

The Following general guidelines are for determining topsoil moisture and subsoil moisture (with top-soil defined as the top 6 inches).

Very Short Soil moisture supplies are significantly less than what is required for normal plant development. Growth has been stopped or nearly so and plants are showing visible signs of moisture stress. Under these conditions, plants will quickly suffer irreparable damage.

Short Soil dry. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be curtailed.

Adequate Soil moist. Seed germination and/or normal crop growth and development would be normal or unhindered.

Surplus Soil wet. Fields may be muddy and will generally be unable to absorb additional moisture. Young developing crops may be yellowing from excess moisture.

Crop Progress:

Percents should indicate the progress of field activities or crop development. Crop planting and harvest progress covers intended acres not the current acres. If, for example, half of the total current year soybean acreage expected is planted, a value of 50 percent is used. If weather conditions alter plans such that intentions are prevented, a 100 percent is used when planting stops. Generally, a given field is considered to be in a particular stage when 50 percent or more of the plants have reached or gone beyond that stage.

Crop Condition:

The following definitions should be used when evaluating crop condition.

Very Poor Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure. Pastures provide very little or no feed considering the time of year. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Poor Heavy degree of loss of yield potential which can be caused by excess soil moisture, drought, disease, etc. Pastures are providing only marginal feed for the current time of year. Some supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Fair Less than normal crop condition. Yield loss is a possibility but the extent is unknown. Pastures are providing generally adequate feed but is still less than normal for the time of year.

Good Yield prospects are normal or above. Moisture levels are adequate with only light disease and insect damage. Pastures are providing adequate feed supplies for the current time of year.

Excellent Yield prospects are above normal and crops are experiencing little or no stress. Pastures are supplying feed in excess of what is normally expected at the current time of year.

Corn Phonological Stages:

Emerged As soon as the plants are visible.

Silking The emergence of silk like strands from the end of ears. Occurs approximately 10 days after the tassel first begins to emerge from the sheath or 2-4 days after the tassel is emerged.

Dough Normally half of the kernels are showing dent with some thick or dough-like substance in all kernels.

Dent Occurs when all kernels are fully dented and the ear is firm and solid. There is no milk present in most kernels.

Mature Plant is considered safe from frost. Corn is about ready to harvest with shucks opening and there is no green foliage present.

Harvested Report for harvested for grain only.

Soybean Phenological Stages:

Emerged As soon as the plants are visible.

Blooming A plant should be considered as blooming as soon as one bloom appears.

Setting Pods Pods are developing on the lower nodes with some blooming still occurring on the upper nodes.

Dropping Leaves Leaves near the bottom of the plant are yellow and dropping, while leaves at the very top may still be green. Leaves are 30-50 percent yellow.

Harvested Report for harvested for grain only.

Wheat Phenological Stages:

Emerged As soon as the plants are visible.

Jointed One or more nodes visible.

Headed The head is present, visible, and fully emerged.

Harvested Report for harvested for grain only.

Hay and Other Roughage Supplies:

Very Short Feeders do not have the supplies that are needed to last the remainder of the feeding season and will not be able to obtain those supplies.

Short Feeders probably do not have the supplies that are needed to last the remainder of the feeding season and will have trouble obtaining those supplies from either growers or hay dealers.

Adequate Feeders have enough hay to last the remainder of the feeding season, or will have no problem obtaining the supplies needed.

Surplus Feeders have more than enough hay on hand to last the remainder of the feeding season, or dealers and growers will have problems disposing of all the excess hay they have on hand.

Subscribe to Crop Weather Release

The **Indiana Crop & Weather Report** is available free via e-mail. Reports are sent after 4:00 p.m. on release day. To subscribe, go to our home page:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Select, **Subscribe to IN reports**, on the right side of the screen. Select **Indiana Crop-Weather,** type in your first and last name, and enter your email address, click on the yellow "subscribe" button. You will receive an email from "L-Soft list server at NEWSBOX.USDA.GOV" to confirm your subscription. Reports from other states are also available by selecting the appropriate state under the **Statistics by State** on the left side, or by selecting several different states from our National site.

View Release Online

The **Indiana Crop & Weather Report** is published online. Reports are available after 4:00 p.m. on release day. To view reports, **access our Home Page at:**

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Indiana/

Click on **Indiana Publications**, or choose **Crop Progress & Condition** from the drop down menu below "Indiana Publications", click on the yellow **Go** button.

Crop Progress & Condition Reports are available in many formats, including: pdf, rtf, txt, and mp3 versions.

Data for other States can be accessed by choosing the desired State under the **Statistics by State** button on the lower left side of the screen.

A Quick Guide to Reporting Crop-Weather

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